Message Text

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TAGS: EFIN, ETRN, OECD

SUBJECT: FINAL OECD COUNCIL ACTION ON UN LINER CONFERENCE

REF: (A) CES 75.91 (B) STATE 268400 (C) OECD PARIS 29207

1. SUMMARY: LONG DEBATE OVER OECD COUNCIL STATEMENT RE COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN UN LINER CONFERENCE (UNC) AND OECD CODE OF CURRENT INVISIBLE OPERATIONS WAS BROUGHT TO A CLOSE NOVEMBER 13 WHEN COUNCIL ACCEPTED DRAFT ENTRY REF A WITHOUT FURTHER REVISION. STATEMENT BY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND, HENCE, SUBSTANCE BEHIND PARA (D) OF DRAFT ENTRY WAS VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL TO THAT REPORTED IN REF C. COUNTRY POSITIONS CONCERNING QUESTION OF COMPATIBILITY WERE UNCHANGED FROM EARLIER COUNCIL DISCUSSION. IT IS EXPECTED THAT BOTH INVISIBLES COMMITTEE (ICJ AND MARITIME TRANSPORT COMMITTEE (MTC) WILL KEEP UNDER REVIEW QUESTION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UN LINER CODE BY SIGNATORY OECD MEMBERS. END OF SUMMARY.

- 2. IN STATEMENT WHICH WAS SUPPORTED BY MOST PROCOMPATIBILITY COUNTRIES, BELGIAN REP INDICATED HE COULD ACCEPT DRAFT ENTRY REF A ON UNDERSTANDING THAT EXISTING MANDATES OF IC AND MTC WERE WIDE ENOUGH TO PERMIT THEM TO CARRY OUT THE REVIEW LAID OUT IN PARA C OF REF A. THIS WOULD MAKE IT UNNECESSARY TO SET UP ANY NEW GROUP TO REVIEW UNC QUESTION. HE BELIEVED THAT COUNCIL SHOULD CONSIDER OECD'S REVIEW OF QUESTION OF COMPATIBILITY BETWEEN TWO CODES AS BEING COMPLETED AND THAT ANY "REVIEW" OF THIS SUBJECT SHOULD BE LIMITED TO NEW PROBLEMS.
- 3. JAPANESE DEL INDICATED HIS GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED IC AND PAYMENTS COMMITTEE REPORTS WERE USEFUL DOCUMENTS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN TAKING ACTION ON UNC. ALSO SAID THAT UNC IS IMPORTANT ELEMENT FOR FUTURE WORLDWIDE SHIPPING POLICY AND SUGGESTED THAT FUTURE OECD WORK THIS QUESTION BE CENTERED ON FINDING WAYS TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH OECD CODE.
- 4. ANTI-UNC COUNTRIES REITERATED POSITIONS STATED IN PREVIOUS COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND REAFFIRMED THEIR VIEW THAT UNC IS INHERENTLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH OECD CODE. UK REP INDICATED THAT HE COULD ACCEPT REVISED DRAFT ENTRY EVEN THOUGH AS COMPROMISE IT IS FAR FROM WHAT HE ORIGINALLY DESIRED. HE INDICATED THAT WHILE UK IS IN FAVOR OF UNIFORM WORLDWIDE CODE COVERING MARITIME QUESTIONS, PROPOSED UNC IS INAPPROPRIATE. UK GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO TAKE POSITION THAT UNC CANNOT BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT BREACHING OECD CODE. HE P/HASIZED UK VIEW THAT ALL MEMBER STATES OF OECD MUST RECOGNIZE PRIMACY OF OECD CODE. ALSO NOTED TT IT WAS UNFORTUNATE THAT BASIC LEGAL PROBLEMS REFERRED TO IN EARLIER DISCUS-SIONS UNC QUESTION HAVE NOT BEEN CLARIFIED. UK GOVERNMENT RESERVED RIGHT TO RETURN TO THESE QUESTIONS AT LATER DATE SHOULD FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS WARRANT. UK POSITION BASICALLY WAS SUPPORTED BY MOST ANTI-COMPATIBILITY COUNTRIES.

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5. US REP SUPPORTED MUCH OF UK STATEMENT, NOTING THAT US PREFERRED ORIGINAL DRAFT ENTRY (E.G., WITHOUT PARA D, REF A) BUT COULD GO ALONG WITH MAJORITY. DRAWING ON REF B, HE MADE STRONG STATEMENT THAT US POSITION REMAINS THAT UNC ITSELF IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH OECD CODE' AND THAT ANY OECD COUNTRY WHICH ADHERES TO UNC IS ACTING IN CONFLICT WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE OECD CODE. TURNER

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